AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-44 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 45–64 are added. The following is the status of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1–44 (Cancelled).

CLAIMS

Claim 45 (New). A method for isolating a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide of interest which comprises a signal sequence for secretion or partial secretion, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

a) providing a DNA or cDNA library from an organism producing the polypeptide of interest, wherein the library is comprised in a circular vector and is produced in vitro without ultraviolet irradiation of the component polynucleotides;

b) amplifying the library by rolling circle amplification, thereby forming concatamers;

c) inserting into the library a DNA fragment comprising a promoterless and secretion signal-less polynucleotide encoding a secretion reporter;

d) introducing the amplified library comprising the inserted DNA fragment into a host cell;

e) screening for and selecting a host cell that secretes or partially secretes the active secretion reporter; and

f) identifying from the selected host cell the polynucleotide into which the secretion reporter was inserted, and isolating the polynucleotide;

wherein steps b) and c) may be performed in any order.

Claim 46 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA or the cDNA library is normalized.

Claim 47 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA library or cDNA library is derived from a microorganism.

Claim 48 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the microorganism is a fungus, a filamentous fungus or a yeast.

Claim 49 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the microorganism is a bacterium.

Claim 50 (New). The method of claim 47, wherein the microorganism is an archaeon.

Claim 51 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA library or cDNA library is derived from a multicellular organism.

Claim 52 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the vector comprises at least one restriction enzyme cleavage site and/or at least one cos site and/or at least one recombination recognition site.

Claim 53 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein step c) is performed in vitro.

Claim 54 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA fragment comprises a transposon.

Claim 55 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the DNA fragment comprises an origin of replication which is functional in the host cell.

Claim 56 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the secretion reporter is a protein which, when secreted from the host cell, allows said cell to grow in the presence of a substance which otherwise inhibits growth of said cell.

Claim 57 (New). The method of claim 56, wherein the secretion reporter is a □-lactamase or an invertase.

Claim 58 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the polynucleotide of the DNA-fragment of steb (b) encodes a secretion reporter carrying an N-terminal peptide linker which comprises a specific target site for proteolytic cleavage.

Claim 59 (New). The method of claim 45, wherein the amplified library concatamers are converted to monomers before performing step d).

Claim 60 (New). The method of claim 45 wherein the vector comprises at least one restriction enzyme recognition site, and the concatamers are converted to monomers by restriction enzyme digestion and then circularized by ligation.

Claim 61 (New). A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of interest, wherein said polynucleotide is isolated by the method of the present invention.

Claim 62 (New). A polypeptide of interest which is encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 61.

Claim 63 (New). A host cell comprising at least one copy of the polynucleotide of claim 61.

Claim 64 (New). A process for producing a polypeptide of interest, comprising cultivating the host cell of claim 64 under conditions suitable for expressing the polynucleotide, wherein said host cell secretes the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide into the growth medium.